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Celebrity Pg 18

Carrie: Fame not so great for love life

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NCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008 metronews.ca

Auto Pg 12

Smart Fortwo grows up

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Patrick Anderson discusses the drunk-driving accident that cost him his legs with six-year-old Christopher Lam in Richmond yesterday. Anderson and his teammates are favourites to win gold in wheelchair basketball at the Paralympics in Beijing.

Paralympic medalist feels jitters

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Two-time Paralympic gold medalist Patrick Anderson might have seemed cool as a cucumber signing autographs at Richmond Centre yesterday, but when asked if he was getting nervous he held up a shaking hand.

The wheelchair basketball star, who is heading to Beijing on Aug. 23, the day after his 29th birthday, said it's the ubiquitous Olympics coverage that's finally giving him the jitters.

"Watching basketball and seeing the venue you're going to be (competing) in and seeing the crowds gives you butterflies," said Anderson.

He was nine years old when he lost his legs after being pinned against a wall by a drunk driver.

He had no qualms about lifting the hem of his basketball shorts for curious young fans to show where his legs were amputated.

Christopher Lam, 6, clutched his autograph and announced, "I see you on TV."

"He's cool because he has no legs, and because he uses a wheelchair," he added.

Anderson said all the attention he's getting is humbling.

"I had big aspirations as a little kid (to be) a professional athlete. I grew up watching able-bodied sports."

"Certainly … we (Paralympic athletes) get the opportunity to impact people."

Double gold

- Anderson was a gold medalist at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games and the 2000 Sydney Paralympic Games in wheelchair basketball.

Petro-Canada stations in B.C., Alta. 'zero-out'

ON EMPTY About a dozen Petro-Canada gas stations in the Interior and Alberta, including at least one in Kelowna, have run out of gasoline following a shutdown at an Edmonton refinery last week.

The gas shortfall was caused when a catalytic cracking unit — a key part of the gasoline production at the Edmonton refinery —was shut down, the company said yesterday.

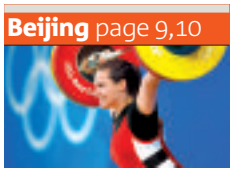
The Lower Mainland should not be affected by the shortfall, because the area can be supplied by ship.

Petro-Canada is working to repair the gasoline processing unit and is adjusting its distribution channels.

Gas stations that have run out of fuel will have price signs "zeroed-out."

METRO VANCOUVER

Beijing page 9,10



Canada just shy of medals

Travel page 14

Sri Lankan celebration

Entertainment pg 16

Stiller, gang Thunder in

Deadline for Taser inquiry submissions in 3 weeks

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

Those who wish to participate in the public inquiry into the death of Robert Dziekanski have just over three weeks to submit an application.

The Braidwood Commission released the details of the application process yesterday. The hearing is scheduled to begin Oct. 20 in Vancouver and last six weeks.

Dziekanski, a Polish immigrant, died Oct. 14, 2007 after being Tasered by police at Vancouver International Airport. His death sparked a heated public debate about Taser use.

This will be the second phase of the inquiry, headed by retired B.C. Appeal Court Justice Thomas Braidwood. The first phase looked into the use, safety and effectiveness of Taser use by police forces other than the RCMP.

Applications for participation in the inquiry must be submitted by 3 p.m. on Sept. 5, 2008. The commission will also accept written submissions on policy issues by Nov. 28, 2008.

info online

- More details on how to apply can be found at braidwoodinquiry.ca.

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Mexican Riviera Cruise FROM **$469**^
INCLUDES 7-day NCL cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Los Angeles and visit Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview cabin from $15 per day.

Hawai'i Cruise FROM **$1229**^
INCLUDES 14-day Princess cruise and onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Los Angeles and visit Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui and Ensenada. Price includes port charges. **UPGRADE** to oceanview cabin from $14 per day.

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USA Holidays

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Anaheim Family Special FROM **$199***
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 3 nights 3-star accom just outside *Disneyland* Park. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $17 per night. **ADD** 3-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $168.

Las Vegas 4 Nights FROM **$239**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star accom in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $15 per night.

Phoenix & The Grand Canyon 4-Star FROM **$559**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, 3 nights 4-star accom in the heart of trendy Scottsdale and a full day Grand Canyon excursion.

Boston Fly & Drive FROM **$599**
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, a 7-day intermediate car rental with unlimited mileage to explore New England's fall colours and sights. **ADD** 2 nights 3-star central Boston accom from $138 per night.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4.5-star all-inclusive accom.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom.

Belize Diving Holiday FROM **$1519**
INCLUDES 7 nights beach front accom, domestic airfare and airport transfers, a local guide, 3 meals a day for 7 days, daily diving and various daily activities including water sports, hiking & wildlife viewing, caves & jungle adventure, Mayan history tour and more. **UPGRADE** to unique Treehouse accom from $40 per day.

Jamaica Luxury FROM **$1669**
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Pemberton Festival field off limits next year
The party-field for this summer's Pemberton Festival will be off limits next year. The B.C.'s Agricultural Land Commission said that the farmland is too fertile to go two years without any crops. NEWS1130.COM

Local

A&B pulls plug on shops

A&B Sound has closed its remaining Vancouver stores on Seymour Street and Marine Drive. The music store, open since 1959, still has a store in Capilano Mall. METRO VANCOUVER

B.C. a keener on energy report card

A+ B.C. is one of the top energy efficient provinces, according to a report released yesterday by the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance.

B.C. received an A+ in 2007, up from a B in 2005, in the National Energy Efficiency Report Card, which gives a biannual grading of federal, provincial and territorial governments. Manitoba also scored an A+.

The report card grades on nine parameters — such as how the jurisdiction supported energy efficiency and public outreach activities and responsiveness to energy efficiency issues.

Richard Neufeld, energy, mines and petroleum resources minister, said the province worked hard to achieve the grade.

"We moved from a C- in 2000 to an A+ in 2007, as a result of our B.C. Energy Plan and climate action initiatives," he said in a release yesterday. "This is an incredible leap forward."

JOYCE YIP/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Beluga calf meets grandma

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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She's one of the Vancouver Aquarium's most popular new residents and now its two-month-old beluga calf, which has yet to be named, has another admirer — her grandmother.

The baby and her grandmother, 23-year-old Aurora, were reunited Monday evening for the first time since the calf was born on June 10.

Aurora was first brought into the main beluga habitat with her daughter Qila and the hours-old calf because the first-time mom was acting aggressively and staff hoped the older whale would show her daughter the ropes.

Once the baby started nursing Aurora was removed again so mother and newborn calf could bond.

Brian Sheehan, marine mammal curator at the aquarium, said yesterday's reunion went well.

"Aurora swam right over to Qila and her baby for a quick reintroduction and they've been behaving fabulously ever since," he said.

"We thought it was time to open up the calf's social circle and bringing in Aurora is the perfect first step. Listening to their vocalizations suggests all three are very happy to be back together."

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

The Vancouver Aquarium's two-month-old unnamed beluga whale is doing swimmingly after being united with grandmother Aurora yesterday.

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

Growing up

- The baby beluga weighs about 100 kilos (220 pounds), which is about double her birth weight.
- She should be fully mature by the age of four.

News in brief

INQUEST A coroners inquest has been called in the death of Cecil Edward McKenna who died last year in cells at Surrey RCMP detachment. The inquest is scheduled to take place Nov. 19 to 21 and aims to determine the facts surrounding the man's death.

DEATH The driver of an empty tour bus died yesterday morning after a crash on the Coquihalla Highway five kilometres north of Merritt, B.C. The driver is in his mid-60s and is believed to be from the Lower Mainland, RCMP said.

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Fighting disease mathematically
Two Canadian mathematicians are heading to Botswana this week to teach 25 Canadian and African graduates on how to control the spread of infectious diseases using equations and formulas. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

ASSAULT RCMP said alcohol could have been a factor in the sexual assault of a 14-year-old girl in White Rock early Sunday morning. The incident occurred around 1 a.m. at Centennial Park following a music concert. Police are investigating a 20-year-old man who will appear in court next month.

BEAR SIGHTING A bear was reported roaming Walnut Grove in Langley yesterday morning. This is the third bear sighting in populated parts of the Lower Mainland in a week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Premier vows homelessness won't be a problem in 2010

OLYMPICS B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell vows that Vancouver won't be plagued by homelessness, addiction and poverty during the 2010 Games.

"The government is taking significant steps," he told reporters in Beijing yesterday.

"Whether they're steps along the lines of making sure emergency shelters are opened 24-hours-a-day so people are not thrust out in the streets or helping people find a stable life"

"We're dealing with it because we think it's important to deal with it in terms of strengthening the city and making it a more vital community to live in."

JOYCE YIP/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Downtown Eastside

- Housing, mental health and addiction centres will be built by 2010, Campbell said, to help address the root problems in Downtown Eastside.

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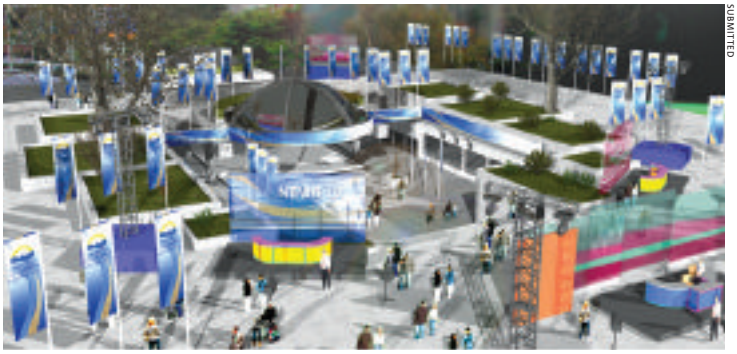

SUBMITTED

The 2010 International Media Centre, seen here in an artist's rendering, will occupy 2,600 square metres at Robson Square.

Robson square to be media hub

Premier unveils 'green certified' centre

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

Thousands of reporters from around the world will be filing furiously from the heart of Downtown Vancouver for the 2010 Olympic Games.

Premier Gordon Campbell announced yesterday that Robson Square will serve as the official media hub for the Games, providing wired networking and operating space for an estimated 3,000 writers and reporters.

"These media will work for broadcast, print and web outlets in all corners of the globe," he said in a statement. "There's no better way to promote all our province has to offer than through the eyes of journalists drawn here by the Games."

The 2,600-square-metre facility will also boast carbon-neutral emissions and a zero-carbon footprint, making it the first ever "green certified" media centre in the Games' history.

Its $2.5-million price tag will be covered by the Olympic Games Secretariat's budget as well as through sponsorships.

Robson Square is perhaps best recognized for its domed glass roofs and outdoor skating rink.

Cathay changes flights

Yet another airline will be reshuffling flights to offset the cost of soaring fuel prices.

Cathay Pacific currently has 21 flights a week to Hong Kong. On Sept. 16 it will be cut to 17 flights, then cut even further to 14 flights on Oct. 26, the company announced Monday.

The planes will be reallocated to more profitable routes such as Europe, Australia and the Middle East.

"We have to maximize our earnings during this difficult period," said Tony Tyler, the airline's chief executive officer in a statement.

"We have to maximize our earnings during this difficult period." Tony Tyler

Last week, Cathay reported a loss of $663 million HK ($90.47 million CDN) for the first half of this year, compared to a profit of $2.58 billion HK ($352 million) during the same period last year.

ANDREA WOO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Teen arrested for robbery, assault

WEST VAN A 16-year-old Vancouver boy is facing charges of assaulting a police officer after allegedly robbing a West Vancouver store with an aluminum bat, police said yesterday.

At 7:40 p.m. Saturday, police were called to Park Royal Mall for reports that a teen was stealing running shoes.

The boy was located in a mall parking lot and was arrested at gunpoint. The assault allegedly occurred after the boy was in custody.

METRO VANCOUVER

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2700B Barnet Hwy.
2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.
22 - 2988 Glen Dr.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre North/South

North Vancouver
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127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

Richmond
Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Square
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Richmond Centre
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WHISTLER

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Pemberton
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Vancouver among greenest cities: Study
Vancouver is one of the greenest cities in Canada, says a recent study released by Pitney Bowes MapInfo. The city ranked third, behind Toronto and Montreal, on the percentage of household income on public transportation, while spending the third least on gasoline. METRO VANCOUVER

Vision candidates encourage transit users to get on board

TRANSLINK Transit users should grab a seat on the TransLink board, said two Vision Vancouver candidates yesterday.

Andrea Reimer and Kerry Jang approached rush-hour commuters at Commercial Drive and Broadway to recruit them for three openings for TransLink directors.

"These openings have been advertised in a very limited, almost secretive way, leaving little time for actual transit users to consider applying for the position," Jang said in a release.

JOYCE YIP/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Lottery corp. bets on logo

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

The British Columbia Lottery Corporation is changing its logo and taking on a new operating name.

From now on, it will be called simply BCLC and its old logo — a stylized B.C. flag — will be replaced with a sans serif BCLC with the tagline, "Playing it right" underneath.

Kevin Gass, vice-president of corporate affairs, says the changes are to reflect the expansion of the brand.

"Although the public may associate BCLC with the lottery, the corporation's gaming business has evolved to include all casinos, bingo halls and community gaming centres in B.C.," he said in a statement.

The new logo is expected to start appearing on signage toward the end of September

News in brief

BREAK-IN RCMP grabbed a suspect after a man was seen breaking into the Maple Ridge museum yesterday. While answering an alarm call at the scene, officers found a door forced open. The suspect, who is known to police, was located in the building and arrested.

CORRECTION In a photo spread in yesterday's Learning Curve section, a rug was misidentified. The correct name is the Angela Adams Dandelion Cotton area rug, and it retails for $59 at Home Depot. Metro regrets the error.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

How to play lottery games with confidence.

Step 1:
Take ticket to Check-A-Ticket terminal.

Step 2:
Check to see if you've won.

Step 3:
Do happy dance.

B.C. Lottery Corporation, together with lottery retailers, is continuing to put improvements in place that allow you to play lottery games with confidence. These changes, and simple measures you can do such as always signing the back of your ticket, are there for your enjoyment of fair, secure lottery games.

Questions? Need information on claiming a prize?
Call toll-free: 1 866 815-0222, or visit bclc.com

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Chicago Catholic Church settles some abuse claims
Chicago's Roman Catholic archdiocese announced it will pay $12.7 million to settle 16 claims of sexual abuse involving 10 former priests and a school principal. Some of the cases date to the 1960s. REUTERS

Canada/World

Mayor says hands tied

Families angry over T.O. blast

Worried that their houses might be damaged, and still unable to feed the pets or grab the medication they left behind in their haste, citizens expressed frustration with Toronto city officials, who provided no information about when they might be able to go back home after the massive propane explosion that rocked their neighbourhood earlier this week.

"When fire services is able to give an update, they will," Mayor David Miller said, adding that there was nothing he could do.

While some families were being allowed back into the area, some were still left out in the cold.

People who live in about 70 homes in the immediate vicinity of the Murray Road blast site were forced to wait further

> **"I'm frustrated. I want to see my home...I want to get some stuff."**
> Johny Gabrielli, resident

Johny Gabrielli, who lives less than 100 metres from the blast site, was denied entry into his neighbourhood.

"We're getting more information from our neighbours than we're getting from anyone else," he said.

"I'm frustrated. I want to see my home, I want to get some stuff. I don't want to go spending thousands of dollars when I don't have to." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ethics probe hears from Tory on election spending issue

ELECTION FUNDING A senior Conservative official in a Toronto riding testified yesterday that his party frowned on him appearing before a parliamentary committee investigating Tory election spending — and even offered him talking points when he insisted on showing up.

The committee has had trouble getting witnesses to appear as it probes allegations the Conservative party broke Elections Canada rules by passing national advertising expenses through local campaigns and then collecting $1.1 million in rebates even though the money was never spent locally..

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

OnlineVideo
www.metronews.ca

DAVID MDZINARISHVILI/REUTERS

A demonstrator holds a poster depicting Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in the uniform of a revolutionary soldier during a rally in Tbilisi yesterday backing President Mikheil Saakashvili.

Russia, Georgia agree to EU-brokered peace deal

PEACE Georgia and Russia agreed in principle to an EU-brokered peace plan over South Ossetia yesterday as the U.S. showed disapproval of Moscow's attacks on its neighbour by cancelling a joint naval exercise.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his Georgian counterpart Mikheil Saakashvili agreed late yesterday to a modified version of a six-point peace plan endorsed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. REUTERS

Victims

- Russia says 1,600 South Ossetian civilians have been killed in the fighting.
- Georgia has reported close to 200 killed.

Palestinians reject plan by Israeli PM

PEACE Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has rejected a peace proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert because it does not provide for a contiguous Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, Abbas's office said yesterday.

Under the proposal, Israel would give to the Palestinians some 92.7 per cent of the occupied West Bank, plus all of the Gaza Strip. REUTERS

Business

Smuggling settlement leads to Rothmans loss

TOBACCO Rothmans Inc., which is being bought by Philip Morris International, reported a first-quarter loss, hurt by expenses after it admitted to helping tobacco smuggling.

Canada's No. 2 cigarette maker said yesterday it lost $354.4 million, or $5.20 a share, compared with a profit of $33.8 million, or 49 cents a share, a year earlier. Rothmans said its profit was hit by expenses relating to a settlement involving its unit Rothmans Benson & Hedges Inc., which in late July admitted to aiding the contraband tobacco trade.

The police investigation relates to the years 1989 through 1996, the company said, when tobacco was exported from Canada to the United States and then smuggled back into Canada to avoid high taxes. REUTERS

Rona sees gloomy year as profits hit

RETAIL The largest Canadian owned home improvement retailer, says it has cut expansion plans by 20 per cent for the rest of this year.

Rona Inc. said profit fell 7 per cent, while sales at stores dove 4.4 per cent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

TRADE A surge in oil exports to the U.S. widened Canada's trade surplus in June to $5.8 billion, up from $5.22 billion in May, Statistics Canada said.

FINANCIAL Most institutional investors expect another failure of a major financial services firm in the coming year, according to a survey. REUTERS

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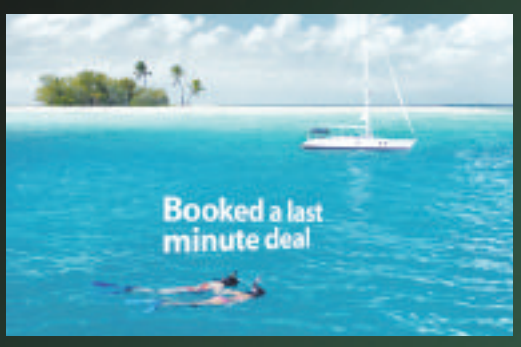

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Islanders tab Providence Bruins boss as new head coach

The New York Islanders have named reigning AHL coach of the year Scott Gordon head coach, making him the 14th head coach in franchise history. Gordon, 45, led the Providence Bruins to an AHL-best 55-18-3 record last season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Indians send Byrd flying to Boston

The Cleveland Indians traded pitcher Paul Byrd, left, to the Boston Red Sox in exchange for a player to be named later or cash considerations yesterday. Byrd, 37, was 7-10 with a 4.53 earned run average in 22 starts with Cleveland this season, but the right-hander has gone 4-0 with a 1.24 ERA in four starts since the All-Star break. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

No golf till '09: Woods

Tiger Woods has said he will be unable to swing a golf club until next year as he recovers from reconstructive knee surgery.

The American world number one decided to have surgery on his left knee for a fourth time after winning the U.S. Open in mid-June, ending his 2008 PGA Tour campaign.

"As far as swinging a club, that's not going to happen until next year," Woods said in his monthly newsletter on Tuesday. "I just don't have a choice.

"We simply don't know what type of swelling there would be or if there would be any residual effects the next day once you start wheeling and dealing on the knee. Everyone's body reacts differently. I could putt right now but I'm not going to do it."

Woods, a winner of 14 major titles, underwent an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction of his left knee. He had torn his knee ligament after last year's British Open at Carnoustie while running and took 10 weeks off at the end of the 2007 season.

He took a further two months off after having arthroscopic surgery two days after the Masters in April and did not play competitively until the June 12-15 U.S. Open.

"I don't know what the doctors are going to tell me about playing golf down the road," the 32-year-old added. "I'm taking it day-to-day, week-to-week. All I'm doing every day is looking forward to my next day."

Woods said his rehabilitation was going well, despite an initial weight loss.

"I'm a lot more mobile, which is really nice," he added. "The big thing is I've started my rehab and can ride the (exercise) bike. I can't ride it hard — just motion — but am getting in two or three sessions a day.

"Initially, I probably lost about 10 pounds because I wasn't working out. All of that was muscle. I've put about two pounds back on, but I'm still pretty light. I'm eating mostly raw and organic foods that provide the most nutrients."

He watched last week's U.S. PGA Championship at Oakland Hills where Ireland's Padraig Harrington won his second successive major title.

"I want to congratulate Padraig Harrington on his wins at the British (Open) and PGA," said Woods.

REUTERS

Tiger Woods winces due to pain from his knee injury during the final round of the U.S. Open in June.

Sports in brief

NFL The Vancouver Canucks will hold their 2008 training camp in Whistler, the hockey club announced yesterday. Veterans will head to Whistler's Meadow Park Sports Centre on Sept. 20. Canucks prospects will hit town a week earlier, Sept. 12.

Iguodala

BASEBALL Swedish centre Mats Sundin hasn't decided where — or even if — he will play hockey next year, Sportsnet reported yesterday. The Vancouver Canucks are among the teams seeking the unrestricted free agent and have offered him a whopping two-year $20-million contract.

NBA According to a report, the Philadelphia 76ers and restricted free agent forward Andre Iguodala have agreed to a new contract.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto 6 Detroit 4
Boston 19 Texas 17
Chicago White Sox 9 Kansas City 0
Cleveland 7 Baltimore 5
N.Y. Yankees 9 Minnesota 6 (12)
Oakland 2 Tampa Bay 1
L.A. Angels 7 Seattle 5

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati 5 Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Mets 4 Washington 3
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta (ppd.,)
Florida 4 St. Louis 3
Houston 12 San Francisco 4
Arizona 4 Colorado 2
Milwaukee 5 San Diego 2
L.A. Dodgers 4 Philadelphia 3

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 11:10
Texas at Boston, 5:05
Toronto at Detroit, 5:05
Baltimore at Cleveland, 5:05
Kansas City at Chicago Sox, 6:11
Tampa Bay at Oakland, 8:05
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 8:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 5:05
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta, 5:10
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 5:10
St. Louis at Florida, 5:10
San Francisco at Houston, 6:05
Arizona at Colorado, 7:05
Milwaukee at San Diego, 8:05
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 8:10

CFL

WEEK 8

TOMORROW'S GAME
Hamilton at Winnipeg, 5

FRIDAY'S GAME
Montreal at Toronto, 4:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:

SUNDAY'S GAME
Puerto Rico at VANCOUVER, 7

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:

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Diving
Canada's Meaghan Benfeito and Roseline Filion placed seventh yesterday in the women's synchronized 10-metre platform. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beijing Games

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Close calls for Canada

Kayaker Ford, weightlifter Girard finish just off podiums in Beijing

Even at 41 and with a fifth Olympic appearance now in the books, whitewater kayaker David Ford couldn't bring himself to utter the "r" word.

Sure, Ford's the oldest guy in his sport at age 41. The average age of the medal winners in Beijing yesterday in the men's K-1 slalom event was just under 25 years.

And after finishing sixth in the event, Ford certainly didn't sound like someone who's going to be retiring anytime soon. In fact, don't be surprised if you see the former world champion coming back for one more crack at an Olympic medal in four years time in London.

"It's not unrealistic to think I'm capable of doing another one," said the Edmonton native, whose best Olympic result is a fourth at the 2004 Athens Games. "We've already kind of determined that. There's no reason that in four years I'll be any less fit or strong as I am now."

Ford's strong showing got Canada — which is still without a medal in Beijing — closer to the podium, but not as tantalizingly close as Christine Girard.

Girard, the 23-year-old weightlifter from Rouyn-Noranda, Que., had equaled a personal best and was in position to grab a bronze medal in the women's 63-kilogram division.

But everything was out of her control, hanging on the bar, along with 135 kilos, as North Korea's Hyon Suk Pak attempted her third and final lift. It was simple: Clean and jerk the required amount and Pak would win the gold medal, bumping the Canadian to fourth place. Fail and Pak would be out of the medals and Canada would finally be in.

"I think it was more stressful than when I was doing my lifts," said Girard, who watched on television in the warm-up room and saw Pak struggle and wobble, but successfully hoist the load, winning herself a gold medal and knocking the Canadian off the podium. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

Christine Girard of Rouyn-Noranda, Que., competes en route to a fourth-place finish in the women's 63-kilogram weightlifting competition yesterday at the Beijing Games

Sports in brief

SOCCER Canada's women's team lost 2-1 to Sweden yesterday in Beijing, but still qualified for the quarter-finals. Canada, which got its lone goal from Melissa Tancredi of Ancaster, Ont., finished the preliminary round 1-1-1 and will take on the top-ranked U.S. in Friday's quarter-final.

TENNIS Americans Serena and Venus Williams powered on towards a likely gold medal showdown with easy second-round wins in the Olympic singles yesterday. Serena crushed Australian Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-0, while Venus beat Czech Iveta Benesova 6-1, 6-4.

BASKETBALL The United States men's team flexed its muscles once again yesterday, routing Angola 97-76 in Group D action in Beijing. Dwyane Wade led the Americans with 19 points. The U.S., who overpowered the Angolans 64-26 in the paint, will play Greece next tomorrow. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Gymnastics
Led by double world all-round champion Yang Wei China won gold in the men's team gymnastics event yesterday in Beijing. Japan won silver and the U.S. took bronze. REUTERS

Beijing Games

Enjoy softball while it lasts

Canada off to strong start in sport set to be dropped

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

So much has been so conspicuously absent at the Beijing Olympics — a Canadian medal, clean air and Brian Williams, for starters — that it's been extraordinarily difficult to muster up excessive enthusiasm so far.

Unless you dig Michael Phelps. Or smog. Or unless you live in countries such as Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — all of which, unlike Canada, have collected medals, and all of which I truthfully didn't know existed on this planet until this week.

Me? I prefer traditional team sports and found myself entertained while watching the Canadian women's softball team defeat Chinese-Taipei 6-1 in its Olympic opener.

My conclusion: This is a formidable team, laden with capable hitters and talented pitchers. The pitchers include left-hander Lauren Bay-Regula, sister of Boston Red Sox star Jason Bay, and Danielle Lawrie, sister of the Milwaukee Brewers' top draft pick in June, Brett Lawrie.

This Canadian team has 11 first-rate newcomers, plays exciting ball and has a genuine shot at a medal. It might even give the United States — perennial kingpins (queenpins?) in women's softball — a run.

What a future Canada has at the Olympics in women's softball. That is, if the Olympics' future included women's softball. These, though, are the final innings for women's softball at the Games because, believe it or not, the nitwits in charge have chosen to dump the sport.

In 2005, the IOC — which has made incompetence a bad habit — deemed it necessary to reduce the number of sports at the summer Olympics by two and chose softball and baseball. They are the first sports dropped since polo in 1936.

I understand the need to eliminate baseball. MLB has refused to halt its season for the Olympics, instead staging its own event — the World Baseball Classic — to profit from an event similar to tournaments basketball and ice hockey stage at the Olympics. That and steroid issues surrounding stars in MLB gave the American pastime a black eye.

But women's softball? More than 130 countries are members of the International Softball Federation, and the sport has never been more competitive, with China, Korea, Australia, Japan and Canada threatening U.S. supremacy.

Canada intends to go down swinging.

"This is by far the best team we've had since I've been around," said Bay-Regula, a 27-year-old British Columbian who's in her second Olympics. "We have a legitimate shot at the podium."

The final gold-medal game in Olympic softball history, by the way, will be played Aug. 21. What a shame.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Still hope for softball?

• Women's softball is out for the London Olympics in 2012 and is appealing to return for the 2016 Olympics in Tokyo, Madrid, Chicago or Rio de Janiero. But generally perceived as stronger candidates for 2016 inclusion are golf, rugby, karate, squash and roller sports.

Phelps breaks golden record

SWIMMING American Michael Phelps became the most successful Olympian of all time when he won his 10th and 11th gold medals early this morning and his fourth and fifth of the Beijing Games.

Phelps broke his own world record to continue his dominance in the Water Cube pool and overtake an elite group including Mark Spitz and Carl Lewis who had won nine golds.

The 23-year-old showed little apparent emotion after winning the men's 200 metre butterfly in 1.52.03, knocking six hundredths of a second off his world record.

About an hour later, the United States won the men's 4x200 metre freestyle relay in world record time, earning Phelps his 11th gold.

Russia won the silver, Australia the bronze and the Canadian team of Brian Johns of Richmond, B.C.; Brent Hayden of Mission, B.C.; Colin Russell of Burlington, Ont.; and Andrew Hurd of Oakville, Ont., placed fifth.

Each of Phelps' five medals in Beijing have come in world best times and he is now over halfway to surpassing Spitz's record of seven golds in one games.

In other action in the pool this morning:

ADAM PRETTY/GETTY IMAGES

Michael Phelps of the United States poses with the gold medal he won in the men's 200 metre butterfly early this morning at the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing Games.

• Calgary's Mike Brown swam the second-best time in the 200 metre breaststroke semifinals and broke the Canadian record en route to a berth in the final.

• Julia Wilkinson of Stratford, Ont., finished seventh in the 200 metre individual medley final. Stephanie Rice of Australia won gold ahead of Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry and Natalie Coughlin of the United States.

• Hayden finished sixth in his men's 100 metre freestyle semifinal heat and failed to qualify for the final. METRO NEWS SERVICES

China put another face to child singer

CEREMONY A pretty girl who shot to fame at China's Olympic opening ceremony was a photogenic front for the real singer, who was rejected appearance-wise in the "national interest," Chinese media reported yesterday.

Nine-year-old Lin Miaoke has been celebrated across China as the angelic voice with the cute face who sang Ode to the Motherland at Friday's opening extravaganza.

But a director of the opening ceremony, Chen Qigang, told state TV Lin's voice was overdubbed by the singing of the real child singer Yang Peiyi, said the government-run China News Service. REUTERS

Medal count

Rank	Nation				Total
#1	U.S.	7	7	8	22
#2	China	13	3	4	20
#3	South Korea	5	6	1	12
#4	Australia	3	2	5	10
#5	Italy	3	4	2	9
#6	Russia	2	4	3	9
#7	France	0	7	2	9
#8	North Korea	1	2	4	7
#9	Germany	4	1	1	6
#10	Japan	3	1	2	6
#11	Britain	2	1	3	6
#12	Netherlands	1	1	2	4
#13	Azerbaijan	1	2	0	3
#14	Brazil	0	0	3	3
	Canada	0	0	0	0

(Count at the end of Day 4)

Alcohol consumption
A new study from a U.S.-based institute found that college women ages 18 and 19 who binge drink —consuming four or more alcoholic beverages per day — are almost 20 times more likely to experience sexual aggression, ranging from unwanted groping to rape. **RIA NEWS RELEASE**

Workology

Britain cracks down

In an effort to crack down on bogus colleges, the British government has introduced strict new criteria for international students and the schools recruiting them. Student-visa applicants must be fingerprinted, and those given visas require biometric identity cards. REUTERS

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Camping for professionals

KRISTA MARTIN
Metro Vancouver

Every morning Jack and Gerri Eagleson wake up to the glorious breeze of the Okanagan surrounded by a beautiful lake, mountains and wilderness.

Having campers camp on their front lawn is just a small price to pay for their life of luxury.

Gerri, 30, shares the responsibilities and maintenance of the Oliver-based campground with her husband Jack and their two children.

The campground comprises of an RV park, tent sites, a store, a lake, and in addition to that, they also manage a mobile park home to help sustain them in the off-season. The Eaglesons have never met a problem they couldn't solve.

"The most challenging aspect is people," said Gerri. "People have different personalities but you have to try to keep them happy on their holiday."

Jack and Gerri were friends of the previous owners. When the friends decided to start a family, they began dropping hints to the Eaglesons to take over the job. Gerri, a former grocery clerk, said the best part is the independence. "The bosses leave us alone and trust us to take care of it," she said.

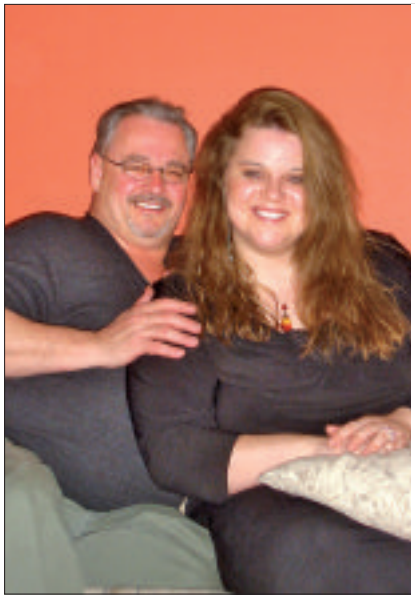
The job has many perks: Tristar Communities, the campground owners, has provided them with a lovely house on the lake and takes care of most of their bills.

Individuals aspiring to one day run a campground should try working at a campground and become familiar with the day-to-day operations, advised Gerri.

Gerri said problem-solving, teamwork and people skills are crucial to managing a successful campground, but it's also good to have someone to share and enjoy it with.

"It wouldn't be as good without Jack," she said of her business and life partner. Although it's a 24-hour a day job, Gerri said there are no real drawbacks.

"You can suck it up for two months out of a year," she said.



Jack and Gerri Eagleson share the responsibilities and maintenance of an Oliver-based campground. Gerri said problem-solving, teamwork and people skills are crucial to managing a successful campground.

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OBITUARY

Car Payment, a constant presence as long as we can remember, finally passed. Car Payment was always there for us, in good times and not so good times.

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Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Smart Fortwo all grown up

Cutting-edge subcompact sheds its cute, quirky image

BRADLEY HORN
for Metro Canada

Since the Smart Fortwo first came to Canada in 2004, some 12,400 owners have been drawn in by its low sticker price, planted firmly in Chevy Aveo, Hyundai Accent and Kia Rio country.

Maybe it's because, despite it meagre purchase price, those owners are wise in the way of motoring. Maybe it's that European panache, its Mercedes-Benz parentage or the cutting-edge engineering that goes into building a safe and practical 2.7-metre urban people mover.

Whatever the reason, Canadians found this tiny runabout's 'smartness' quite appealing.

Even so, the arrival of a second-generation Smart for 2008 brings some unexpected maturation. All of a sudden the 'cute' little Fortwo has become a serious, viable vehicle and less of an automotive novelty.

Conceptually, the formula remains intact. The Tridion Safety Cell still forms the basis of the car — basically a high-tech, high-strength steel body structure that protects its occupants in a collision.

Though the length has increased by 19 cm (for improved impact absorption), the new Fortwo is still the shortest, most compact car in the world.

Smart's view that the '08 Fortwo's interior is a "bit more mature" is modest to say the least. That quirky 'wave' design of the first generation car is gone, thankfully, and replaced by a handsome, straightforward dash that dials up material quality quite noticeably.

Highlights include a bit more legroom, more travel for fore-aft seat adjustment, optional leather seating and a panoramic roof on high-end models.

As before, the ignition is on the centre console and a clock and rev counter are optional.

Luggage space behind the seats has grown too, to a respectable 340 litres — and the passenger seat still folds flat.

Like its predecessor, the Fortwo's engine is rear-mounted.

The Smart Fortwo's meagre price, European panache and safety features make it attractive for customers.

However, in the most visible change from the Gen One model, Canadian Smarts are now powered by an all-new 1.0-litre, three-cylinder gasoline engine instead of a turbodiesel.

On paper, its seemingly modest 70 horsepower output doesn't reflect the real-world pep the car now has thanks to its low, low curb weight. It'll even hit 140 km/h should the need arise.

Just as appealing, the gas engine is considerably less costly to produce per car than the turbodiesel, contributing to a lowered price and simplified line-up. The Pure, Pulse and Passion trim levels of old have been changed to just Pure ($14,990) and Passion ($18,250) for the coupe body style and Passion only ($21,250) for the convertible. That's a saving of $1,400 to $1,700 compared to the '07 models.

A semi-automatic five-speed transmission (down from six) is also new for '08 and helps get rid of the "shift lag" evidenced in the previous model.

That quirky 'wave' design of the first generation car is gone, thankfully, and replaced by a handsome, straightforward dash that dials up material quality quite noticeably.

Luggage space behind the seats has grown too, to a respectable 340 litres.

2008 Smart Fortwo Coupe

Type: Subcompact 2-pass. coupe RWD
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Interestingly, females are slightly more likely to judge a partner by their car — with 44 per cent compared to 40 per cent of men.

The findings also reveal that a staggering three quarters of a million women have even dated someone just because they liked his car. And a further 250,000 turned down a date with a guy they liked, because they didn't rate his car.

But perhaps more extreme is the 330,000 Brits that claim to have stayed in a relationship just because they liked driving their partner's car, or the 230,000 that went as far as dumping their other half because their automobile didn't meet their high standards.

While many people strive for a toned look to attract the opposite sex, it seems this can often count for little if their car is unreliable and has filthy paintwork, an oil leak and bald tires.

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Travel

On the fly

"Glamour" camping destination Clayoquot Wilderness Resort is offering a ladies' fly fishing weekend from Sept. 18 to 21. Guests will rough it in white canvas tents filled with Persian rugs, antiques, and four poster beds covered with fluffy duvets — and dress in "wilderness chic apparel" that will put them at the height of fly fishing fashion. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Sri Lanka's celebration of God

Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim pilgrims come to worship

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JULIA DI

A scene from the Kataragama Festival, a two week-long event in Sri Lanka that sees an influx of some 100,000 pilgrims.

The air smells of kerosene and jasmine flower. Young men crack whips as thick as cobras, while others skillfully twirl fire, leaving circular trails of light. There is rhythmic drumming and tribal dancing. It's what I imagine Burning Man Festival to be, except drugs and drinking are replaced by devotion to deities.

This is Kataragama Festival, a two week-long holy event that sees the arrival of some 100,000 Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim pilgrims. Devotees, many of whom have travelled for weeks to get to this auspicious city, have come to worship and perform acts of penance and self-mortification. Some swing from hooks piercing their bodies while others walk on fire to show their devotion to God.

The festival entrance has a carnival-type atmosphere, with vendors selling stuffed animals, fruit offerings, plastic trinkets and sweets. Walking through the fairgrounds, I'm happy to see that security is heightened with checkpoints and police searching baggage — as the civil war between the separatist Tamils and the Sri Lankan government continues, you can't be too careful.

This holy shrine and popular pilgrim centre is humanity at its finest.

Past the checkpoints, people have gathered, eagerly watching the procession of elephants down a path illuminated by beads of light. Dressed in a red rhinestone cloak, one elephant looks like a Mexican luchador wrestler.

This holy shrine and popular pilgrim centre is humanity at its finest. On the fringes of the main action, I see the bodies of passed out pilgrims strewn all over the ground. Some are cooking their dinner by small smouldering fire (a scene that's becoming increasingly more common with the rise in gas prices) while others are gently rocking their babies to sleep.

Trying to find a spot to watch the parade, I make my way through the maze. Every step is carefully calculated and I'm weary of stepping on little hands and feet. Though many have been waiting for hours for their spots, all are welcoming as I cozy my way up to the front.

Seated on the sandy floor, a woman offers me a piece of her tarp to sit on. Here, people are very generous to foreigners. I'm offered oranges, water and lots of smiles.

I can feel all eyes on me. Here, I'm partly a movie star and partly a sideshow freak. Mothers holding infants point at me, raising their voices and eyebrows as if to say, "Look at that. Isn't that girl amusing?"

While some might feel self-conscious, I sort of like being "the other." I get off on being the outsider. In a crowd of thousands, I feel strangely satisfied that there are only a handful of foreigners.

This is how a travel writer knows she's in the right spot — when the tourists are gone, there are no fanny-pack wearers from Florida and not a McDonald's in sight.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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Go medieval
The Queen Eliška Festival, held Sept.5-6 2008) in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, will include countless knights, musicians, magicians, falconers, swordsmen, stall keepers and actors; *calendariumregina.cz*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Helsinki's hidden delights

There's plenty to uncover in Finland's compact capital

PIA SIEVINEN
Metro World News

With its combination of historic town centre, seaside location and trendy design and music scene, Finland's compact capital is the perfect spot for a city break.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Left, newly opened bar Nolla attracts young-at-heart fashion, music, media and advertising types, who come for the beer, homemade food and DJs. Right, the reception at Hotel Klaus K, a hot spot with its own restaurants, bar, club and luxury day spa.

Where to stay

Omenahotel: This new budget hotel is completely automated: There is no reception or staff in the hotel: all reservations are made online, and you use a door code instead of a key to get into your small but smart room. Located right in the centre of town, near the shops, bars, restaurants and cafés. Eerikinkatu 24, 00100 Helsinki, *omena.com*.

Hotel Klaus K: This former business hotel has been transformed into a hip, deluxe Scandinavian hot spot with its own restaurants, bar, club and luxury day spa. Room categories — from Mystical and Passion to Desire and Envy — are inspired by the Finnish epic Kalevala. Bulevardi 2, 00120 Helsinki, *klauskhotel.com*.

What to see

The Helsinki Cathedral and Senate Square: The ideal starting point for a walking tour of the city. At the heart of the historical centre, Senate Square is a fantastic example of Empire style, with the Lutheran Cathedral, monument to Tsar Alexander II, the senate and university buildings. Corner of the Aleksanterinkatu and Unioninkatu, 00100 Helsinki, *senaatintori.fi*.

Suomenlinna: This 18th-century, UNESCO-listed sea fortress built on the islands just off Helsinki is actually a suburb. More than 850 people live in the renovated ramparts and barracks.

For visitors, it's an attractive summertime picnic spot. There is a regular ferry boat service to Suomenlinna from the Market Square, 6 a.m. to 2:20 a.m., all year round, *suomenlinna.fi*.

Where to shop

Fashion

Helsinki 10: Local designers' collections as well as other Scandinavian and international fashion brands like Acne Jeans, Cheap Monday, Malene Birger and Martin Margiela meet in the store that reminds us of Colette in Paris. Eerikinkatu 3, 00100 Helsinki, *helsinki10.fi*.

Designer souvenirs

Marimekko: Established in 1951, Marimekko is the leading Finnish textile and clothing design company. This national treasure is known for colourful prints and simple modern design. Among the most interesting young designers is Samu-Jussi Koski. Pohjoisesplanadi 2 and 31, 00100 Helsinki, *marimekko.fi*.

Where to eat

Traditional

Restaurant Kosmos: For more than 80 years, Kosmos has attracted a mix of artists and politicians with its congenial atmosphere and its traditional dishes made of fresh local ingredients: reindeer, fish and meat, vegetables, mushrooms and blinis. Classics include steak tartare à la Kosmos, vorschmack and cloudberries for dessert. Kalevankatu 3, 00100 Helsinki, *ravintolakosmos.fi*.

Top notch

Restaurant Savoy: At the very top of Helsinki's restaurant scene since the 1930s, with an interior designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Eteläesplanadi 14, 00130 Helsinki, *royalravintolat.com/savoy*.

For food lovers

The Old Market Hall: For the last century this bustling indoor market is a food-lovers' destination with specialist stalls selling fish, meat, cheese, coffee, bread and pastries. Have lunch in a café or the sushi restaurant, or take away a snack of traditional small salmon sandwiches, *wanhakauppahalli.fi*.

Where to drink:

Nolla: This newly-opened bar is a sister of the popular Bar Erottaja where young-at-heart fashion, music, media, advertising and art people go for beers, homemade food and DJs playing live. Fredrikinkatu 56, 00100 Helsinki. Wed. to Sat., noon to 3 a.m., Sun. to Tue., noon to 2 a.m..

Bali-Hai: An easygoing bar and restaurant in the trendy Punavuori area, named after the mythical island. Popular with a creative crowd. Iso Roobertinkatu 35, 00120 Helsinki. Mon. to Fri., 11 a.m. to midnight; Sat. to Sun. noon to midnight, *tinyurl.com/24hysx*.

Where to go clubbing

Den Kungliga Klubben: This intense club with four floors hosts a lively 20-something crowd and the hottest club DJs. The dress code is informal, so jeans and T-shirts are fine. Mannerheimintie 6 A, 3rd floor, 00100 Helsinki. Wed. to Sat., 9 p.m to 4 a.m., *denkungliga.com*.

Mecca: Fashionable nightclub in the Palace Kamp complex of luxury waterfront restaurants and hotels. The venue is relaxed, with its 30-something city crowd dressing up at the weekend. Korkeavuorenkatu, 00100 Helsinki. Mon. to Tue., 4 p.m. to midnight, Wed. to Thu., 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., Fri. to Sat., 4 p.m. to 4 a.m., *palaceamp.fi/ravintolat/mecca*.

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Greatest B

Evil Dead 2 has topped a new U.S. magazine poll to find the Greatest B-Movie of All Time. The cult zombie film claimed 31 per cent of the Paste reader vote to beat Plan 9 From Outer Space and Killer Klowns From Outer Space. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Worth her Salt

The espionage thriller Edwin A. Salt, originally intended as a vehicle for Tom Cruise, is being rewritten for Angelina Jolie now that Cruise is no longer attached to the film. Jolie is reportedly close to a deal regarding the movie. E! NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Going Out

7:30 p.m. Finnish cappella/choral ensemble Rajaton performs live. At Vandusen Botanical Garden, 5251 Oak St. Tix: $25.25-30.25. Info: *vancouver.ca/parks/parks/vandusen/website*

7:30 p.m. TheatreSports. At New Revue Stage, 1601 Johnston St. Tix: $10.50-14.50. Info: *vts.com*

8 p.m. UK band Gerry & the Pacemakers perform live. At Red Robinson Show Theatre, 2080 United Blvd. Tix: $29.50. Info: *blvdcasino.com*

8 p.m. The Twelfth Night. At Bard on the Beach, 301-601 Cambie St. Tix: $33. Info: *bardonthebeach.org*

9:15 p.m. Improv Carbaret. At New Revue Stage, 1601 Johnston St. Tix: $8.50. Info: *vts.com*

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Thundering herd

Tropic **Thunder**

Director: Ben Stiller
Stars: Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr.
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●1/2

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Robert Downey Jr., Ben Stiller and Jay Baruchel star in the action comedy Tropic Thunder.

REVIEW War! What is it good for? As it turns out, it's not too bad for Ben Stiller, who returns to the writer-director's chair for the first time since his box office hit, Zoolander. In Tropic Thunder, Stiller leads the all-star cast of Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr. and even Tom Cruise (in a surprising role that's sure to relieve those who thought he'd all but beamed up to Planet Thetan) in this spoof of Hollywood egos and icons.

Stiller plays Tugg Speedman, a fleeting action star leading the cast of a fictional war film being shot in Southeast Asia. After the movie goes over budget, the actors are sent into the jungle to capture "real fear in their eyes". Instead, the gang loses their director, get lost themselves and fall prey to real terrorists.

The twist: They're convinced it's all part of the movie. It's a great premise and one that doesn't let down with its cast. Downey Jr. steals the show playing method-actor Kirk Lazarus (Downey Jr.) who has undergone a procedure to darken his skin in order to be "a dude playing a dude disguised as another dude".

Perhaps more surprising is the supporting cast. That Stiller gave such weight to young stars Jay Baruchel and Brandon Jackson is credit to his maturity as a filmmaker.

Where a stellar cast take hilarious self-deprecating stabs at moviemaking and the false egos of stardom, Stiller, however, tends to mug blankly to camera as he mostly did in Zoolander.

Still, with satisfying cameo appearances, broad but funny gags and a great sense of timing, Tropic Thunder may be the summer's last kick at solid box-office comedy.

'70s the flavour of the month in television

RAG AND BONE BOUTIQUE: Hollywood is the kind of place where everyone has an assistant but none of them can come up with more than one good idea.

This year it's the '70s; a generation of producers and executives who spent their formative years vegging out in front of their parents' console television set, changing channels only occasionally as the remote was still an expensive accessory, have ascended into positions of power, and are determined to make the next year's worth of shows recreate the look and feel Nixon/Ford presidencies.

You almost get the feeling they're praying for a gas shortage and runaway inflation just to get the mood right.

Certainly Russia seems to be doing its bit to recreate the bleary-eyed plateau phase of the Cold War — after the invasion of Georgia, can SALT III talks be far behind?

Flush with the critical success of Mad Men and Breaking Bad, AMC has given the green light to a TV version of Francis Ford Coppola's 1974 film The Conversation, a project that has obsessed producer Tony Krantz for years — he's tried to sell versions of the project three times before, most recently to ABC, just two years ago, with a version set in the present day.

By the time it gets to air, it's unlikely that ABC's fraught remake of BBC's Life On Mars will be set in New York in the '70s — after almost relentless changes to the producers, cast and setting, the show that makes it to the air this fall might take place on a space station. The leader of the '70s revival pack so far, though, seems to be CBS, who have two revivals of '70s series in the works.

In the San Francisco Chronicle, TV critic Tim Goodman worried that the network's new version of Streets Of San Francisco won't be able to afford to shoot anything but exteriors in the city by the bay, as "would be completely pointless and unwatchable unless it was shot here."

Tell that to anyone living in Toronto or Vancouver, who've had their streets stand in for everywhere from New York in the '30s to Battlestar Galactica's alien worlds.

CBS is also reviving Hawaii 5-O, updating the show to the present day with a team of top cops headed up by Steve McGarrett's son, Chris. Executive producer Ed Bernero told the Hollywood Reporter that he's trying to keep as much of the original show as possible, and fully intends to preserve the catchy theme song in some form as well as the phrase "Book'em, Dano."

The executives behind this egregious trend would be having second thoughts about this if they knew that the terrible endgame involves a new version of Man From Atlantis.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Period-piece Mad Men has been a critical success.

Tori Spelling out of 90210 spinoff

TELEVISION Actress Tori Spelling has pulled out of the forthcoming Beverly Hills, 90210 spinoff amid rumours of a salary row, imdb.com reports. The star has reportedly walked away from the revamped TV show after discovering she is to be paid less than half the figure former co-stars Jennie Garth and Shannen Doherty are picking up to reprise their roles. Spelling's representative has confirmed the actress' decision, telling usmagazine.com, "At this time, there are no plans for Tori to appear in the 90210 spinoff."

Spelling

Lynne Spears book due in September

PEOPLE Lynne Spears' much-discussed new book is due out Sept. 16 – but the cover was unveiled earlier this week, People.com reports. Through the Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World is a memoir, describing Spears' "story of what it was like being a mom and raising two very famous people," a spokesman for publisher Thomas Nelson said in June. The tome will not be a parenting guide, as many had expected.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pam's TV show debuts, Val dines at Shore Club

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo

andrea.woo@metronews.ca

Pamela Anderson's new reality show, **Girl On The Loose**, debuted to unimpressive ratings last week, drawing in only 1.1 million viewers. According to hollywoodreporter.com, that's 27 per cent less than both **Denise Richards: It's Complicated** and **Living Lohan**, and 200,000 viewers less than **Sunset Tan**, which follows the surely enthralling lives of tanning salon employees. Anderson was in Vancouver early last week sampling the Davie Street KFC's new "faux chicken" burger, blowing off several scheduled interviews and eating at Blue Water Café. Ladysmith council also recently approved a proposal of hers to build an 83-unit development on property where her family once operated a holiday camp.

Matthew Lillard, perhaps best known as Shaggy Rogers in the **Scooby Doo** films, spoke to students from Vancouver Film School recently about his experience in the industry. "Hollywood likes to put labels on you," said the actor. "You have to understand who you are in the industry and market yourself in that way." Lillard also chomped on the steak and potato skins at Pinky's Steakhouse, where staff said they enjoyed his "pleasant (lack of) attitude."

RANDOM ROUND-UP: **Eric McCormack (Will & Grace)** was seen eating at Blue Water Café; **Steve Nash** and **Val Kilmer** dined separately at the Shore Club; a male actor is rumoured to be pregnant on an upcoming episode of the locally lensed The L-Word.

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 8/13/08	251	308	3 CBC	(3:00) XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	Greatest American Dog (N)		Janice Dickinson Modeling		True Hollywood Story		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	TMZ (N) (CC)	Hollywood	Law & Order (CC)		Criminal Minds "No Way Out"		CSI: NY "DOA for a Day"		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	According-Jim	George Lopez	Happy Days	Growing Pains	Jeeves and Wooster (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (PA) (CC)		NCIS "Stakeout" (CC)		Crime Stories David Shearing.		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Wife Swap "Ketchum/Sheron"		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Famous Monster		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Make Me a Supermodel		Biography "Goldie Hawn"		Entourage	Entourage	Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Greatest American Dog (N)		Criminal Minds "No Way Out"		CSI: NY "DOA for a Day"		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Olympic Zone	XXIX Summer Olympics (CC)						
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Shopping	Style by Jury	Three Fat Brides		Coleen's Real Women (N)		Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wife Swap "Ketchum/Sheron"		Supernanny "Prescott Family"		Primetime: Crime (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Family Business ★★★ (1989) Sean Connery.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Wings-Canada	Richard Bangs' Adventures		Nova scienceNOW (N)		Carrier "True Believers"		Cousteau-Adv.
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (PA) (CC)		Sarah Connor Chronicles		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Do You Speak American?		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Do You Speak American?	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	38 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Big Love (CC)		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	29 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Town at the Top-World		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Sportsnet	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:30) XXIX Summer Olympics		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Boxing Wednesday Night Fights. (Same-day Tape) (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides "Chinatown"		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up (CC)	Odyssey	The Rig (CC)
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Schwab	World Series of Poker		Score Update	Score Update		Score Update
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol: Hamburg vs. Juventus		Gol TV News		American Soccer		Gol TV News		Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	ReBoot "Daemon Rising" Daemon's infection. (CC)				Falcon Beach "Vigil" (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Appleseed ★★ (2004) Ai Kobayashi. (CC)		
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Naturally	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Meerkat	Undersea	Ancient Clues (CC)		Voyages of Discovery		For King and Country (CC)		Yo-Yo: Bach
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Tara Diaries	Living, Dream	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	So You Think You Can Dance		Born to Be	Totally Untrue	Punk'd (CC)	America's Best	Dance Crew	Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	26 H&G	Flipping Out		Holmes	Holmes	Property Shop	City	Property	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	615	520	61 A&E	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel
	628	584	62 SPKE	Real Vice	Real Vice	UFC Unleashed		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	64 TLC	Duggars' Big Family Album		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Duggars' Big Family Album		Jon & Kate
	616	522	63 SHO	ReGenesis "Sleepers" (CC)		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order "Mad Dog"		Without a Trace "Rage"		Entourage	Dangerous Lives-Altar Boy	
	601	562	41 SLC	Inside Hollywood (N) (CC)		X-Weighted (CC)		Work Out		Inside Hollywood (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Dirty Jobs "Skull Cleaner"		Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Ravenous" (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		Cities of the Underworld		NCIS "Ravenous" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural "Jus in Bello"		Stargate SG-1 "Lost City"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	The Fifth Element ★★★ (1997) Bruce Willis.		
	619	525	48 TROP	TV Made	TV Made	ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	52 FN	The Next Food Network Star		Challenge "Extreme Cakes"		Iron Chef America (CC)		The Next Food Network Star		Challenge
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Warriors of Terra (2006)		Normal ★★ (2007, Drama) Carrie-Anne Moss.			(:45) Shoot 'Em Up ★★ (2007) Clive Owen.			(:15) Normal
	581	566	101 MTV	Run's House	Buzzin (CC)	MTV Live	Second Half	Living	Living	Run's House	Buzzin (CC)	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Swedenborg: Mystical Cow		Call It Karma (CC)		Jeeves and Wooster (CC)		Chambers	No Place Like	Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics'corner

Supernanny
Nanny Jo Frost tackles her largest brood in the history of the show as she meets harried parents Kadi and Daniel Prescott, who have seven children ranging in age from 1 to 8. As if that isn't enough, Jo soon learns that Kadi's own father abandoned his family after coming out of the closet when she was 13. In this poignant hour, Jo tries to mend this family rift and help Kadi, who is virtually friendless, build a support network. 9 PM on ABC

Criminal Minds
Keith Carradine won an Oscar for the song "I'm Easy" from the movie "Nashville," but if his character here had a theme song, it would be "I'm Sleazy." He plays a serial killer who's reputedly tortured and murdered more than 100 people. The BAU has tracked him down, and the cops want to haul him in, but Gideon (Mandy Patinkin) urges them to hold off; there's something the man's not telling them. Thomas Gibson also stars in "No Way Out." 9 PM on CBS CTV

Stanley may be singing lullabies
Paul Stanley, 56, the legendary co-founder and front man for KISS, and his wife, Erin, are expecting their second child together. Erin, 36, an attorney, is due this winter. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Fame can hurt dating, Carrie says

RELATIONSHIPS Although former American Idol sensation Carrie Underwood has become one of the country music's biggest stars, fame has its downside — especially when it comes to dating, People.com reports the singer as saying.

"You never really know why somebody wants to be around you, or if they do genuinely like you," Underwood, 25, tells Allure magazine in the September issue. "I wish everyone had a label on their forehead so you could automatically tell their intentions. Sometimes you just wish that no one wanted anything from you."

Underwood recalls a time soon after her success on Idol when a guy who'd ignored her in college — clearly enamored by her newfound success — called saying that "he wanted to explain."

Fame hasn't helped create lasting relationships for her either. Earlier this year, Underwood split from Gossip Girl's Chace Crawford via text-messages. "We didn't have a fight. No one cheated," she clarifies. "It plain didn't work."

As for Dallas Cowboys QB Tony Romo, who now is dating Jessica Simpson, Underwood says she still hears from him sometimes – but doesn't always pick up the phone.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Alanis reflects on aging

PEOPLE The effects of old age won't be a concern for Alanis Morissette, People.com reports.

Don't count on seeing the singer, who says she "notices new things" about her body every month, searching for a fountain of youth. Instead Morissette plans to embrace her body's transformation.

"I'm fascinated by aging and how a woman's body changes," Morissette, 34, tells Women's Health's September issue. "I don't want to spend the next 50 years of my life trying to hide those changes. There's something very relaxing about watching it unfold instead of fighting it the whole way."

While she watches her body evolve, Morissette has stayed physically fit by adding triathlete to her resume.

"It was amazing to use my body as an instrument rather than as an ornament," Morissette says of the swim-run-bike competition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Madonna eyes new adoption?

PEOPLE Madonna is reportedly looking to adopt a second child from Malawi, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pop star wants to give a home to two-year-old girl Mercy James, whose mother died in childbirth, but the family of the child, who lives in an orphanage, have said they are "not interested" in the proposition.

Madonna's adoption of Malawian David Banda was finalized earlier this year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

I'm not Woody's muse: Scarlett

MOVIES Scarlett Johansson denies she has become director Woody Allen's latest muse, imdb.com reports.

Allen admits the actress is the inspiration for his films. But Johansson insists they only work together to "have fun."

"I'm not his muse," she says. "Every single junket that we've done so far (for Vicky Cristina Barcelona), we always get the muse thing and we always say no, it's not that way."

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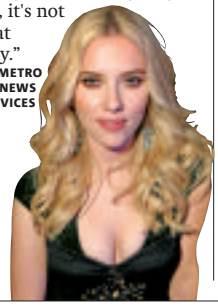
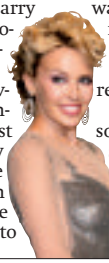


Song won't name Kylie

MUSIC Kylie Minogue is reportedly set to release a cover of Barry Manilow's hit Copacabana, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, however, is said to have angered the lyricist Bruce Sussman by asking for the woman's name in the song to be changed from Lola to Kylie.



Minogue is said to have wanted the lyric, "Her name was Lola, she was a showgirl" to be changed, but Sussman refused.

"Bruce was furious," a source told gossip website MSNBC. "He told Kylie, 'No way. Her name's Lola. Not Lola Minogue, not Kylie.' "

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Butting out freed Julianne

PEOPLE Actress Julianne Moore credits her decision to quit smoking for an emotional awakening, imdb.com reports.

Moore quit the habit 15 years ago.

"I began to see the most clearly," she tells Parade magazine.

"I was 31 or 32, and I quit smoking. I was so emotional. I had been so unhappy, and I realized that I had just been ... literally stuffing it back with those cigarettes in my mouth. I felt like I woke up suddenly," Moore adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Paul Stanley and his wife are having a baby. This is pure demographics. The original KISS ARMY are all about 50 now. New recruits must be spawned! To the incubators! And how will Paul know the child is really his? When he sees that telltale black star over its right eye.

It's difficult to imagine why **Kylie Minogue** wants the lyrics of her cover version of Copacabana to be changed so that Lola becomes Kylie, given that the Lola in the song ends up as a drunken, insane, aged and decrepit figure. Oh, wait, I guess it does make sense.

Carrie Underwood says she wishes everyone had a label on their forehead so she could automatically tell their intentions. Interesting. It usually takes famous people nearly a decade to become that insane. I do appreciate her candidness, though, because I like to know what plans our celebrity class has in store for us. Here's what I'd like my label to say: "I do not intend to purchase, or listen to, any Carrie Underwood music for as long as I live."

Scarlett Johansson is correct to deny she's **Woody Allen**'s latest muse. She knows it doesn't work that way. First, Woody adopts you, then you become his muse, then he marries you. Then everybody shudders and throws up.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

celebrity brief

Sister fakes not knowing Beyoncé

PEOPLE Solange Knowles has revealed that she often pretends that she is not related to her sister, Beyonce, Ananova.com reports.

The young soul singer is so tired of being asked about her famous singer-actress sister that she has even told people she has "disposed" of her!

"Sometimes I say she's not my sister. Other times I say I've stuffed her in my suitcase and sent it to Dubai. I have to have fun with it," Solange told the Daily Star.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Producer sues Hudgens

PEOPLE Producer Johnny Vieira is suing High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens, People.com reports.

In court papers filed earlier this week in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Vieira is demanding more than $5 million US and punitive damages from the Disney star.

Vieira claims he and Hudgens, now 19, worked together to launch her career — and that they agreed to "share equally" in the profits. (Because the actress was a minor at the time, Vieira contends that a court approved the 2005 agreement.)

But after High School Musical became a hit, he says she dumped him – and that she still owes him $2 million – which the documents for the suit state Vieira discovered "after an expensive audit."

There has been no comment from Hudgens' camp.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Scarce Gwyneth annoys guests

PEOPLE Guests who paid up to $2,500 US to attend the Amaryllis Farm Equine Rescue Organization benefit in the Hamptons, New York, were not happy with actress Gwyneth Paltrow Saturday night, the New York Daily News reports.

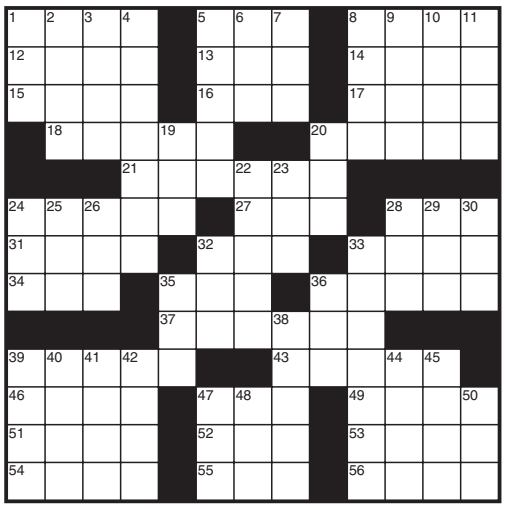
Paltrow reportedly spent most of the time off-limits in photographer Steven Klein's house.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rowland racks up party bill

Kelly Rowland, right, spent almost $400,000 US on a night out. The former Destiny's Child singer racked up the bar bill on guests that included U2 front man Bono in St. Tropez, France, last weekend, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



Crossword down

1 — Vegas
2 Bratty kids
3 Castle defense
4 Largest bird
5 Entice
6 Hagen of "The Other"
7 Dracula, at times
8 Touchdown
9 Sudden impulse
10 Woodland god
11 Tiny insect
19 Collected sayings
20 Monsieur's summer
22 Bail out
23 Festive quaff
24 Debate side
25 Rough shelter
26 I, to Wolfgang
28 Eur. airline
29 Left Bank pal
30 Pit stop purchase
32 Uncles and nephews
33 Payment plan
35 Train alternative
36 Work by Keats
38 Fill with
39 Goner's fate
40 Lacking elegance
41 Cow-headed goddess
42 Sight from Messina
44 Late-night host
45 Pearl starter
47 Herbal infusion
48 Irving or Grant
50 Green parrot

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Crossword across

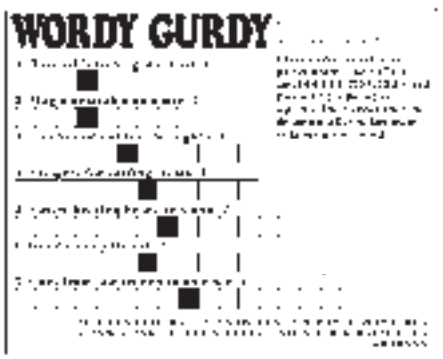
1 Prom rental
5 Margarine container
8 Back talk
12 Maj. — Hoople
13 Flight board info
14 Ph.D. exam
15 Tiff
16 Bathroom item
17 Feverish chill
18 Sandal part
20 "Maria —"
21 Resolute
24 Girl from Baja
27 Diner coffee
28 Mattress problem
31 Ow!
32 Barrel
33 Prayer-wheel turner
34 Last degree
35 Razor brand
36 Camel's pit stop
37 Topsy-turvy
39 Evaporates
43 Feasts
46 Depose
47 File label
49 Spineless
51 Thor's father
52 Outback bird
53 Prince Charles' sister
54 Southwest feature
55 Response on deck
56 Jedi master

previous day's answer

B	A	R	B	■	G	R	A	F	■	S	H	H
U	R	A	L	■	B	A	B	A	■	Q	U	I
T	E	P	E	E	■	M	U	R	M	U	R	S
■	■	T	S	H	I	R	T	■	E	A	T	S
T	A	O	S	■	L	O	■	S	A	T	■	■
E	R	R	■	H	I	D	D	E	N	■	R	A
S	I	S	■	I	A	■	A	C	■	B	I	G
T	D	■	I	N	D	E	N	T	■	R	C	A
■	■	C	O	T	■	S	T	■	S	O	A	R
B	O	U	T	■	A	C	E	T	I	C	■	■
E	M	B	A	R	G	O	■	E	X	A	C	T
T	E	E	■	O	U	R	S	■	E	D	N	A
E	N	D	■	C	A	T	O	■	S	E	N	D

This day in history

AUG. 13, 1415: Hundred Years' War: Henry V of England lands at Chef-en-Caux, France with 8,000 men.
AUG. 13, 1814: The Convention of London, a treaty between the United Kingdom and the United Provinces, is signed in London.
AUG. 13, 1913: Otto Witte, an acrobat, is crowned King of Albania.
AUG. 13, 1918: Women enlist in the United States Marine Corps for the first time. Opha Mae Johnson is the first woman to enlist.
AUG. 13, 2004: Hurricane Charley, a Category 4 storm, strikes Punta Gorda, Florida and devastates the surrounding area.



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Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
An old friend is on the way. Develop a more philosophical attitude. Someone's focus is on the prevention of problems.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Misery is the hot topic of a conversation. A falsehood touches on the truth. New beginnings arise in a partnership issue.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A fascinating event will take place. Make a fresh start to be successful. A special discount encourages a great purchase.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Kindness can melt a frozen heart. Be grateful to an unexpected helper. A vivid fantasy puts a romance on the rocks.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone's attitude calls for a fast adjustment. A friendly female feels abandoned. Spend time with a happy informant.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An emotional overload provokes an outburst. Be available if somebody needs to talk. A bossy person revises a business plan.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Take a risk and be surprised. A mediocre boss tries your patience. A messenger finally brings glad tidings.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Help someone who has a bad attitude. A grumpy person will make vexing comments. You'll win by problem-solving at home.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
You'll emerge unscathed by a stressful situation. Temper tantrums interfere with getting work done. Don't get caught being fiendish.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone has a joyful story to share. An escape from an event leads to a snit-fit. Step lightly around a dull debate.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A man will refuse to be delayed. You'll have some free time. You can restore the flow of your energy and zest.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Do a good deed: the gratitude will be awesome. You'll have to live without a lost document. You'll get an idea that can make a fortune.

Sudoku

	5	9				6		
			5	8				3
2					9			5
		4	1		2		8	
	6			3			9	
	1		4		6	2		
8			2					9
3				4	7			
		5				7	6	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

9	3	2	1	6	7	8	5
8	5	7	9	4	3	2	6
4	6	1	2	8	5	3	9
6	8	3	5	7	2	1	4
7	9	4	6	1	8	5	2
1	2	5	4	3	9	7	8
3	1	9	8	5	6	4	7
2	4	8	7	9	1	6	3

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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Vancouver weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mainly sunny. 21°	Clear. Low 15°	Sunny. 24°/ 18°	Mainly sunny. 24°/ 18°	Sunny. 25°/ 17°

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature
Normals
High: 22.3°
Low: 13.4°

Records
High: 27.3°/1977
Low: 7.8°/1937

Sunrise: 6:02 a.m.
Sunset: 8:31 p.m.
Moonset: 2:11 a.m.
Moonrise: 7:16 p.m.

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